

June 10, 2021

EMPIRE VILLAGE COUNCIL WORK SESSION

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Davis who led the Pledge of Allegiance. This meeting was conducted virtually due to health concerns surrounding COVID-19 under a Local State of Emergency declared by President Davis as authorized by Village Ordinance #156. In attendance were Trustees Bacon, Chase, Barr, Dye, Rademacher and Palmer. Clerk Smith and Zoning Administrator Grobbel were also in attendance.

President Davis reported that a meeting regarding the Drainage District will be held near the beginning of August. The Village will be notified once the date is set. He also reported on his conversation with Attorney Figura regarding signage at Niagara St. at the beach and liability there and on the rip rap. An email summarizing the discussion was read by Bacon. Davis reported that Borkovich will supply input when he is able to drop by. Davis will update Council when that happens. Engineer Graf stands by his opinion provided in 2018 letter to the Council. Barr noted that Lake Michigan Drive begins north of the lighthouse and Niagara St. extends the length of the beach.

CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA – Motion by Bacon, support by Barr to approve the agenda. Unanimous approval upon a voice vote. MOTION PASSED.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS – Terry Bacon commented on the proposed Septic Ordinance and the Zoning Ordinance Section on Fences. Melvin Laracey, Mary Sharry, Beryl Skrocki, and Diane Hammersmith commented on beach access.

COMMITTEE ISSUES (PARKS, WATER, ETC.) – March commented that the price of a bulletin board at beach has increased and asked if it was budgeted. Price will be approved at the next meeting. Chase reported that the Personnel Committee had met and made changes to the ROP.

OLD BUSINESS

RULES OF PROCEDURE – The proposed ROP were discussed page by page. Trustees were encouraged to note any grammatical changes they would like before approval is considered. There was consensus that Dept. Head reports should be included on both agendas and a written report is appreciated once a month from the DPW Superintendent. There was consensus that Committee reports be included on both agendas. There was consensus that the last paragraph of 6.11 be deleted. There was consensus that 6.12 remain in the draft. There was consensus that the portion of 6.13b in parentheses can be deleted. Many sections were discussed and clarified for understanding. There was consensus that noted changes be made and a vote taken at the regular meeting.

SEPTIC TIME OF SALES ORDINANCE NO. 137 – There was discussion of who is qualified to conduct inspections. There seemed to be consensus that the inspections should not be limited to BLHD. There was consensus that it be sent back to committee.

BEACH ACCESS TO THE SOUTH & NORTH FOR BEACH WALKERS – Documentation provided by Bacon was reviewed. There was discussion of both safety and access issues in both the short and long term. There was consensus that the large slabs of concrete and rebar were a

safety concern. Sandbags and warning signs regarding dangerous rocks were suggested as possible short-term mitigation. There was discussion of mitigating the exposed rebar. Davis will review such removal and the addition of sandbags with the DPW. There was consensus that the issue be discussed at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

ALL WAY SIGNS ON THE 4 STOP SIGNS AT NIAGARA & UNION – There was discussion of whether the newly placed signs have been placed per the Council’s wishes. Stop sign on Niagara is new and should include an “ALL WAY” supplemental sign as it is a major street. There was consensus that such sign be added to this sign, and it will be voted on at the next meeting.

ZONING ORDINANCE SECTION 3.09 FENCES FOR VILLAGE REVIEW & COMMENT – There was discussion of the lengthy review process of this ordinance. There was discussion of 4’ or 6’ height for privacy fences for corner lots. It will be returned to the Planning Commission and then returned to a regular meeting of the Council.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE – Mel Laracey and Chris Grobbel commented on beach access.

BOARD COMMENTS - Barr thanked Acton for her work on the beach grant the Village has received. Bacon commented on supporting all staff during the busy summer season and noted the DPW hours have changed and end at 3:30 p.m. Davis thanked all for their comments and discussion.

ADJOURNMENT at 9:22 p.m.

Derith Smith, Empire Village Clerk

These minutes were approved at the June 22, 2021, Regular Council meeting.